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Shuster's Statement SCHIP Vote

It's Time to Work Together to Pass a Responsible SCHIP Bill

Washington, D.C. – Today, **Congressman Bill Shuster** joined his House colleagues in voting to sustain the President's veto of the Democrat's SCHIP expansion proposal. Congressman Shuster released the following statement following the vote:

"Today, the House voted to sustain a veto on legislation that would have taken a once universally embraced children's health program and expanded it at the cost of low-income families and American taxpayers.

Let there be no mistake, I strongly support the SCHIP program. It continues to do great things to fill the gap between Medicaid and private insurance. But the Democrat's plan would have taken a good program and ruined it through big government fraud and waste.

The House rejected plan that would have opened SCHIP to illegal aliens, a move that would have cost taxpayers \$6 billion dollars. It would have increased eligibility for families in some states whose incomes are substantially above the poverty level. And it would have set the stage for a massive tax increase to fill the funding gap for SCHIP that a hike in tobacco taxes could never fill alone.

The ugly truth is that the Democrats decided to put politics before policy and inflate a bipartisan children's health care program to the point that anyone with any fiscal responsibility would be pressed to oppose it. No one in Congress wants to take health care away from children. Anyone who says otherwise is more interested in distorting the truth for political gain than supporting what was once a bipartisan and universally embraced health care program.

Now, Congress has an opportunity to do what it should have done in the first place: put partisan politics aside and actually govern. It is our responsibility to pass responsible SCHIP legislation that puts the needs of low-income kids above the needs of special interest groups. We cannot be derelict in that responsibility."

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